

NORTH DAKOTA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES

INVESTMENT POLICY STATEMENT

1. INTRODUCTION.

The North Dakota Association of Counties (NDACo) was established to aid in the administration of county government by providing a medium for exchange of information, ideas, and experience of county officials; promote training; facilitate cooperation with all levels of government; and be a legislative advocate for counties. NDACo and the benefits provided thereunder are funded by dues from member counties and special programs and projects of the NDACo.

2. RESPONSIBILITIES AND DISCRETION OF THE STATE INVESTMENT BOARD (SIB).

The assets are to be invested in a manner consistent with the prudent investor rule as provided in NDCC 21-10-07.

At the discretion of the SIB, the Fund's assets may be pooled with other funds. In pooling funds, the SIB may establish whatever asset class pools it deems necessary with specific quality, diversification, restrictions, and performance objectives appropriate to the prudent investor rule and objectives of the funds participating in the pools.

The SIB may delegate investment responsibility to professional money managers. Where a money manager has been retained, the SIB's role in determining investment strategy and security selection is supervisory not advisory.

The SIB is responsible for establishing criteria and procedures and making decisions with respect to hiring, maintaining, and terminating money managers. This responsibility includes selecting performance measurement services, consultants and report formats and determining the frequency of meetings with managers.

3. INVESTMENT OBJECTIVES.

Funds in excess of those required for operating and claims payment needs will be invested to obtain the maximum total return on investments consistent with safety of principal on funds in excess of those required for operating and claims payment needs. The investment fund(s) may be comprised of fixed income securities and equity securities. Individual investments may be either actively or passively managed.

4. STANDARDS OF INVESTMENT PERFORMANCE.

The Fund's investment objectives and liquidity constraints give rise to an asset allocation that is considered the most likely to achieve the results desired. For evaluation purposes, the following performance targets will apply:

- a. The Fund should produce a rate of return that meets or exceeds the portfolio policy index defined as 20% S&P 500 domestic stock index, 10% Russell 2000 domestic small cap index, 10% MSCI EAFE international stock index, 10% First Boston convertible securities index, 45% Lehman Brothers Government/Corporate domestic bond index, and 5% 90-day Treasury bills.
- b. The annual standard deviation of total returns for the Fund should not exceed that of the policy portfolio.

5. POLICY AND GUIDELINES.

The asset allocation is established by the SIB, with input from the NDACo. Asset allocation is based upon the appraisal of projected liquidity and income requirements, and estimates of the investment returns likely to be achieved by the various asset classes over the next five years.

In recognition of these factors, the following allocation is deemed appropriate for the fund:

<u>Asset Class</u>	<u>Target Allocation</u>
Large Cap Domestic Equity	20%
Small Cap Domestic Equity	10%
Convertible Bonds	10%
International Equity	10%
Fixed Income	45%
Cash Equivalents	<u>5%</u>
Total	100%

Rebalancing of the Fund to this target will be done in accordance with the SIB's rebalancing policy.

While the SIB is responsible for establishing specific quality, diversification, restrictions, and performance objectives for the investment vehicles in which the Fund's assets will be invested, it is understood that:

- a. No derivative instruments or strategies which make use of derivatives which would cause the portfolio to be in any way leveraged will be used.
- b. Derivative use will be monitored to ensure that undue risks are not taken by the money managers.
- c. All assets will be held in custody by the State Investment Board's master custodian or such other custodians as are acceptable to the State Investment Board.
- d. No funds shall be borrowed.
- e. No short sales or margin purchases shall be made.

6. EVALUATION AND REVIEW.

Investment management of the Fund will be evaluated against the Fund's investment objectives and investment performance standards. Evaluation will be conducted quarterly by the SIB through its review of funds participating in the Insurance Trust.

Money managers will be evaluated by the SIB quarterly. In-state meetings will be held with the money managers at least annually.

Approved by:

NDACo



Mark Johnson
Executive Director, NDACo

Date: December 7, 1998

STATE INVESTMENT BOARD



Scott Engmann
Executive Director, RIO

Date: December 7, 1998



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Memo

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MAR 04 2004

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ND 48000
MAR 03 2004
6:22 PM

To: Genny Dienstmann, NDACo
From: Connie Flanagan *cf*
Date: March 2, 2004
Re: Adjustment to Investment Guidelines

We are in the process of reviewing all of the Investment Guideline Statements for the funds invested by the State Investment Board (SIB). We would like to request a change in the language in Section 5 of your statement regarding allowable investments.

In subsection "a." we would like to change the policy "No derivative instruments or strategies which make use of derivatives which would cause the portfolio to be in any way leveraged will be used." We recommend changing it to, "Futures and options may be used to hedge or replicate underlying index exposure, but not for speculation."

In subsection "e." we would like to change the policy "No short sales or margin purchases shall be made." We recommend changing it to, "No unhedged short sales or speculative margin purchases shall be made."

These changes will facilitate the hiring of an additional large cap domestic equity manager who utilizes a futures strategy in an enhanced index portfolio. In the essence of time, we request that you indicate your approval of this change by signing below and returning this memo to us. You may want to keep a copy for your records. We will send out complete revised guidelines statements in the near future.

I approve of the changes indicated above. Signed

Date

Genny Dienstmann
3-3-04